

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-23, 25-30, 33, 34, 36-41, and 43-55 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 28, and 52-55 being independent.

Claims 1, 19, 20, 28, 47, 48, and 52-55 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claims 47 and 48 have been objected to as being dependent upon cancelled claims. These claims have been amended to depend from Claims 54 and 55, respectively. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 11-19, 23, 25-30, 36-41 and 52-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 911 808 A1 ("Buchner"). Claims 6, 7, 20-22, 33, 34, and 43-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Buchner in view of well known prior art. Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Buchner in view of well known prior art and further in view of EP 0 854 418 A2 ("Hemphill"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of detecting means for detecting the processor-controlled machine, output means for outputting a welcome message in a case where the detecting means detects the processor-controlled machine, recognition grammar information receiving means for receiving recognition grammar information from the processor-controlled machine in a case where the detecting means detects the processor-controlled machine, and machine dialog interpretable instruction receiving means

for receiving machine dialog interpretable instructions derived from speech data processed by the speech processing apparatus using the recognition grammar information.

Applicant submits that Buchner neither teaches nor suggests all of the features recited in Claim 1. For example, there is no disclosure or suggestion of output means for outputting a welcome message in a case where the detecting means detects a processor-controlled machine, as recited in Claim 1 (and described, for example, at page 23, lines 4 to 17 of the original specification). Because of such a feature, a user can know exactly when and at what timing a system becomes available, something which is not possible with the arrangement described by Buchner.

Independent Claim 28, which is a method claim generally corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, has been amended in a corresponding manner.

Each of independent Claims 52 and 53 has been amended to include additional features, including a feature of an output device operable to output a welcome message in a case where a detector detects a processor-controlled machine or a network device. Independent method Claims 54 and 55, which generally correspond to Claims 52 and 53, respectively, have been amended in corresponding fashion.

Applicant submits that at least since Buchner does not teach or suggest the output means, step, or device respectively recited in the independent claims, those claims patentably distinguish the invention over Buchner.

Further, Applicant submits that neither Hemphill nor the teachings alleged to be well-known in the art remedies the deficiencies of Buchner with respect to the invention as claimed, whether taken alone or in combination with Buchner. Accordingly, Applicant submits


that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102-103 rejections are respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons that the base claims from which they depend are allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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